

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LILONG 01414 061842Z

ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 A-01

OPR-02 SY-05 MCT-02 PER-01 CA-01 PPT-01 SCS-06

AID-05 PC-01 IO-13 HA-05 /107 W

-----124992 061843Z /43

P 061509Z SEP 78

FM AMEMBASSY LILONGWE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2248

AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY LUSAKA PRIORITY

AMEMBASSY NAIROBI PRIORITY

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG PRIORITY

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y - (PARA 4, LINE ONE, LAST WORD
TO READ ENTRY)

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, CASC, MI, ZA

SUBJ: TEMPORARY CLOSURE OF MALAWI-ZAMBIA LAND BORDER

REF: LILONGWE 1403

1. EMBASSY HAS RECEIVED CONFLICTING ANSWERS FROM
MALAWI POLICE ON REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION ON STATUS
OF MALAWI-ZAMBIA BORDER. ONE SENIOR POLICE OFFICIAL
AND THE IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT THE MCHINJI BORDER POSST
CONFIRMED THAT CERTAIN TRAVELERS ARE BEING REFUSED
ENTRY FROM ZAMBIA BY LAND. BOTH USED THE TERM QUOTE
TEMPORARY CLOSURE UNQUOTE OF THE BORDER BUT WOULD NOT
SAY WHY OR FOR HOW LONG BORDER WILL BE CLOSED. OTHER
POLICE AND IMMIGRATION OFFICERS DENY THAT ANY TRAVEL
RESTRICTIONS ARE IN EFFECT. SPECIFICALLY, EMBOFF WAS
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TOLD BY ONE POLICEMAN THAT THE AMCIT REFUSED ENTRY
PER REFTTEL ON SEPT 5 WAS NOT TURNED BACK BECAUSE OF
ANY BORDER CLOSURE. THE EMBASSY WAS INVITED TO WRITE
TO THE DEPUTY CHIEF IMMIGRATION OFFICER FOR AN EXPLA-
NATION OF THIS PARTICULAR CASE.

2. THERE IS NO INDICATION THAT ANY RESTRICTIONS EXIST
FOR LAND TRAVEL FROM MALAWI TO ZAMBIA, ONLY FROM

ZAMBIA TO MALAWI.

3. NEITHER THE ZAMBIAN NOR BRITISH HIGH COMMISSION IN LILONGWE WRE AWARE OF ANY TRAVEL RESTRICTIONS. THEY DID REPORT, HOWEVER, THAT DURING THIS YEAR'S MALAWI NATIONAL WEEK CELEBRATIONS, JULY 3-9, SOME OF THEIR NATIONALS WERE REFUSED ENTRY TO MALAWI AT MCHINJI BORDER POST WITHOUT APPARENT JUSTIFICATION.

4. EMBASSY BELIEVES THAT GOM IS RESTRICTING ENTRY AT ZAMBIAN BORDER MOST LIKELY AS A SECURITY PRECAUTION IN CONNECTION WITH PRESIDENT BANDA'S CURRENT VISIT TO MALAWI'S CENTRAL REGION. THIS IS NOT A NORMAL PROCEDURE. BANDA IS SCHEDULED TO REMAIN IN CENTRAL REGION UNTIL SEPT 14.

5. EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT AMERICAN TRAVELERS BE ADVISED TO POSTPONE LAND TRAVEL FROM ZAMBIA TO MALAWI'S CENTRAL REGION (DISTRICTS OF MCHINJI, KASUNGU, LILONGWE, DEDZA, NTCHEU, NKHOTAKOTA, SALIMA, DOWA AND NTCHISI) UNTIL AFTER SEPT 14.
SHEINBAUM

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Disposition Approved on Date:
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